

THE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICINE AND PSYCHIATRY



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THE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICINE AND PSYCHIATRY was founded in 1991 by physicians concerned about the care of patients at the interface of medicine and psychiatry. It is an interdisciplinary group composed of primary care physicians, psychiatrists, and dually trained physicians, who work together to improve scientific understanding of the problems of patients with concurrent physical and psychiatric illness and to improve their ability to provide high-quality patient care to these individuals.

THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE of the Association is to enhance the care of patients with concurrent physical and neuropsychiatric disorders through teaching, the development of clinical services, and research. It seeks to achieve this objective:

- (1) By creating educational programs to disseminate basic science and clinical knowledge about concurrent medical and psychiatric illness and the care of patients with such comorbidities;
- (2) By developing curricula and teaching materials for students, residents, and fellows in the primary care and psychiatric specialties;
- (3) By generating guidelines for residencies in "Internal Medicine/Psychiatry" and "Family Medicine/Psychiatry," fellowships in "Psychiatry in the Medically Ill" for primary care physicians, Medical/Psychiatry Units, and Medical/Psychiatry Clinics;
- (4) By setting priorities and fostering basic and applied research in the care of patients with both physical and psychiatric problems; and
- (5) By participating in national forums related to the assessment, treatment, and research funding of projects pertinent to the care of patients with combined illness.

The Association is unique in that it promotes balanced participation by both primary care physicians and psychiatrists in advancing the care of patients with both physical and psychiatric illness. The coordinated efforts of professionals from these disciplines in the Association make it an ideal forum for innovation in the dissemination of information, creation of services and training programs, and the performance of research for benefiting patients with physical and psychiatric problems.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Association of Medicine and Psychiatry is held in conjunction with an existing national meeting of an organization that focuses on areas applicable to the Association such as the Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine and the Society for General Internal Medicine. The meeting offers state-of-the-art scientific presentations focused on the treatment of psychiatric illness in medical settings, the management of complex comorbid illness, and integrated care delivery. It also provides an opportunity for interaction among attendees from different backgrounds and trainees at various levels of training. At the meeting, the general membership has the opportunity to discuss policies, goals, and the future plans of the Association as well as to elect the officers and counselors whose task it is to implement them.

The Association invites the readers of the *Companion* to join its membership and to attend the national meeting. Information regarding the 2008 ANNUAL MEETING will be forthcoming in the next issue of the *Companion*.